

CHAPTER 239 APPROVE ALTIMETER SETTING SOURCES

Section 1 Background

1. PTRS ACTIVITY CODES

- Avionics: 5451

3. OBJECTIVE. This chapter provides guidance for the initial approval of an altimeter setting source.

5. GENERAL

A. Order 8260.3, U.S. Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures, as amended, provides for the use of remote altimeter setting sources and gives guidance in procedural development involving precipitous terrain and/or nonhomogeneous weather characteristics.

B. The Flight Procedures Branch controls all matters pertaining to altimeter setting sources used in instrument approach procedure development.

(1) Upon receipt of a request for an instrument approach procedure, the Flight Procedures Branch will advise the applicant of the need (if required) of a local altimeter setting source and provide a copy of the current Advisory Circular for such sources.

(2) The Flight Procedures Branch will advise the appropriate Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) of any location requiring the approval of their altimeter setting sources.

Section 2 Procedures

1. PREREQUISITES AND COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Prerequisites

- Successful completion of Airworthiness Inspector's Indoctrination Course for General Aviation and Air Carrier Inspections, or previous equivalent
- Completion of the Altimeter and Barometry Course

B. *Coordination.* This task requires coordination with the Regional Flight Procedures Branch through the Flight Standards Branch.

3. REFERENCES, FORMS, AND JOB AIDS

A. References

- Advisory Circular 91-14, Altimeter Setting Sources, as amended

- Order 8260.3, U.S. Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures, as amended

B. Forms

- Regional forms, as applicable

A. *Job Aids.* None.

5. PROCEDURES

A. Respond to the Request

(1) Notify the Regional Flight Procedures Branch if the request is initially received by the FSDO.

(2) Ensure that the applicant has read and understands Advisory Circular 91-14, Altimeter Setting Sources, as amended.

B. Inspect the Facility Location

NOTE: Applicants should select two altimeters that display the same scale error on each altimeter at the elevation where they will be used.

(1) Ensure the following:

(a) That the applicant has provided the following:

- Two aircraft type sensitive altimeters which meet the systems test and inspection requirements of FAR Part 43, Appendix E, Technical Standards Order C10b if new altimeters, and/or Advisory Circular 91-14, as amended, as applicable
- Altimeters that have been calibrated within 30 days by an FAA-approved facility
- A facility that is maintained at a reasonably consistent temperature, free from drafts

NOTE: If the altimeters are located in a room heated or cooled by forced air systems, the effect of these systems upon the altimeters should be evaluated.

- Proper venting to ensure that if an error in excess of 10 feet is induced by the use of forced air systems, an outside vent (static source) is in use

(b) That altimeters are mounted in a box or rack that precludes damage from mishandling and ensures a reasonable, permanent location

(c) That the facility has established a known height above mean sea level ± 1 foot that is marked on the instruments or posted immediately adjacent to them

NOTE: Height may be determined and certified by a surveyor.

(2) Evaluate the method to be used in communicating the altimeter setting information to the pilot.

C. *Analyze Results.* Brief the applicant, as required.

7. TASK OUTCOMES

A. *File PTRS Transmittal Form*

B. Completion of this task will result in the following:

(1) An inspection report that contains at least the following information:

- The shelf height of instruments and how this was obtained
- The calibration dates, serial numbers, and scale error of altimeters at shelf height
- The Unicom frequency and the hours operated
- A list of the personnel in charge and their phone numbers
- A statement of satisfactory compliance or discrepancies found

(2) Distribution of the inspection report to the following:

- Regional Flight Procedures Branch
- Local FSDO file

9. FUTURE ACTIVITIES. Transfer of certification activities to normal surveillance activities.